



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

## Press Release

Cooperating with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture  
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### **Idaho December Red Meat Production Down 5 Percent from Last Year**

Commercial red meat production at Idaho packing plants for December 2009 totaled 18.3 million pounds, down 5 percent from December of last year, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service. Accumulated red meat production for the January-December 2009 period totaled 227 million pounds, down 2 percent from the comparable period a year earlier.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.15 billion pounds in December, down slightly from the 4.16 billion pounds produced in December 2008. Beef production, at 2.13 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.75 million head, up 3 percent from December 2008. The average live weight was down 7 pounds from the previous year, at 1,296 pounds. Veal production totaled 13.1 million pounds, 2 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 92,300 head, down 2 percent from December 2008. The average live weight was down 5 pounds from last year, at 240 pounds. Pork production totaled 1.99 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.83 million head, down 3 percent from December 2008. The average live weight was unchanged from the previous year, at 270 pounds. Lamb and mutton production, at 15.9 million pounds, was up 3 percent from December 2008. Sheep slaughter totaled 235,300 head, 2 percent above last year. The average live weight was 136 pounds, up 2 pounds from December a year ago. January to December 2009 commercial red meat production was 49.3 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2008. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was down 3 percent, pork was down 2 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 2 percent.

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